"GREGORY XVI, POPE.: FOR A PERPETUAL REMEMBRANCE.
LOUISCARD LAMBRUSCHINI
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Apostolic letter of our most Holy Father Gregory, by divine Providence, Pope, XVI of the name, ordaining on account of the unhappy state of religion in the kingdom of Spain, public prayers, and granting to their performance a plenary indulgence in the form of a Jubilee.

"GREGORY XVI, POPE.

FOR A PERPETUAL REMEMBRANCE.

"The interests of the Catholic Religion, confided to out lowliness by Jesus Christ, the Prince of Pastors and most loving Redeemer of mankind, as well as the charity which, animates us in behalf of the entire Universe interiorly press, and urge us so forcibly that we cannot omit anything, that we believe necessary, to preserve in its integrity the deposit of Faith and prevent the ruin of immortal souls. It is too well known to all what is the present condition of religion in Spain, and with what profound affliction of heart we have been compelled for many years to bewail the sad vicissitudes of the Church in that kingdom. The people far from swerving from the holy principles of their ancestors, are strongly attached to the Orthodox faith; the greater portion of the Clergy fight courageously the battles of the Lord, and almost all the Bishops though cruelly harassed, driven into exile and oppressed with affliction, watch with ceaseless solicitude for the welfare of the flock committed to their care. But men of perdition, whose number is not inconsiderable, confederating together in a most infamous Association and foaming out their own confusion, like the waves of the troubled sea, wage the foulest war against Christ and his Saints; and after having already inflicted many evils on the Catholic religion, in the height of their impiety, now dare to attempt, if possible, its total overthrow.

As for us, raising our Apostolic voice, as our ministry requires, we have never ceased publicly to deplore the deep wounds which the government of Madrid has inflicted on the Church. All the acts which the civil power has decreed against the rights and privileges of the Church we have declared to be null and without effect. We have moreover vehemently complained, with every expression of grief, of the atrocious wrongs and outrages committed against our venerable Brethren, the Bishops of that realm, and against the regular and secular Clergy, of the abominations in the holy places, of the Sacrilegious spoliations, sale and confiscation of Ecclesiastical property; calling to mind at the same time the pains and penalties which the Councils and Apostolic Constitutions declare to be incurred (ipso facto) by those who fear not to perpetrate such nefarious crimes. This duty which our Apostolic office imposed upon us, we have once and again discharged in two allocutions, addressed to our venerable Brethren, the Cardinals of the holy Roman Church, in the consistories held on the Calends of February 1836, and on the Calends of March 1841: We likewise ordained that these should be printed that they might become a public and perpetual monument of our Apostolical solicitude and of the deep reprobation with which we shall always regard the persecutors of the Church.

We had hoped that our voice, coming as it did from the heart of the common Father of the faithful, would be favorably heard, and that our admonitions and reiterated entreaties would at length put an end to the grievous persecutions now waged against the Catholic religion. For this purpose, prostrate night and day at the feet of Christ Crucified, in the humility of our heart, in tears and in sighs, we have never ceased to beseech Him, through his infinite mercy, to extend his succouring hand to the afflicted Spanish nation, and to show to the erring the light of his truth, that they may again return into the way of justice. But through the inscrutable judgments of God our hopes have not been realized. On the contrary, throughout that extensive country the evils seem daily to increase, so that nothing less than the destruction of the Catholic religion is openly attempted. Without speaking of many other acts sufficiently known which have been lately decreed against the rights and immunities of the Apostolic See, or which have been put in execution, we shall ever deplore, that men, by a diabolical perversity, should be so confirmed in their wickedness, as to propose in the Supreme Councils of the nation, a law execrable in all its bearings, whose sole object is to destroy all legitimate Ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and to substitute in its stead the impious assumption that the lay power by its own Sovereign right should in all things rule the Church and its concerns.

By this law it is enacted under pain of grievous punishment, that no intercourse should be held with the Apostolic See, and that all communication for any Ecclesiastical favors, indults, or grants of any kind should be broken off. It has not only decreed that Apostolic letters and other rescripts emanating from the Holy See, unless Spain herself should have demanded them, should not only be diregarded, but should be of no effect; and also that they who receive them, shall without delay denounce them to the civil authority, that they be delivered up to the government under severe penalties. Moreover it requires that all impediments to marriage shall be submitted to the Bishops of the kingdom until the civil law establish a distinction between the contract and the Sacrament; that in no cause relating to religious matters shall Rome be consulted by Spain; that in future no Nuncio, or Legate of the Holy See shall be admitted into the kingdom with powers to grant any dispensation, or favor, even though it should be given gratuitously. Still more! The sacred right which belongs to the Roman Pontiff of confirming or rejecting bishops elected in Spain is absolutely denied, and the punishment of exile decreed against a Priest, nominated for any Episcopal See, who may demand a confirmation, or Apostolic letters from Rome; the same penalty to be enforced against Metropolitans asking for the Pallium. After such enactments, it is most assuredly surprising that the Roman Pontiff should be recognised in the same law, as the centre of the Church, and yet that no communication should be had with him unless by permission and under the inspection of the government.

Desiring with our whole soul, as far as is in our power, to arrest the evils pressing daily with greater heaviness on the afflicted Church of Spain, and wishing to succor the beloved faithful who have for a long time past extended their suppliant hands towards us, we have resolved, after the example of our predecessors, to have recourse to the prayers of the Universal Church, and to excite with all the zeal of which we are capable, the piety of all Catholics in favor of that afflicted nation. And truly, since no one can be exempt from this common sorrow, when religion and faith are exposed to such dangers, all having an equal cause for grief, should hasten with equal ardor to aid their suffering brethren. Whilst we renew and confirm by these present letters, the complaints and expostulations made in the above mentioned allocutions, we at the same time condemn, reject, and declare of no effect all the acts which the government of Madrid has decreed to this day against the rights and dignity of the Church and the Apostolic See; and especially do we condemn and reject, the law lately proposed; earnestly exhorting our most venerable brethren, the Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops and Bishops, throughout the world in Grace and Cummunion with the Holy See, in the name of that Common Charity by which we are but one in the Lord, in the name of that faith whereby we are but members of one body, to mingle their tears with ours, to appease the divine anger, and with one accord to implore the mercy of the all-powerful God in favor of the unhappy Spanish nation; and to excite with all earnestness the zeal of the Clergy and people committed to their charge that continual prayers may be offered up to God for this end. We wish and ordain that our venerable brethren, the Archbishops and Bishops of our pontifical States, adopt in their respective dioceses, in the manner which may seem to them most useful in the Lord, public supplications addressed to the Father of mercies, that, through the merits of the blood of His Son, shed for all men, the days of trial in the kingdom of Spain may be abridged. And that God may the more easily incline His ear to our petitions, we ordain that all humbly implore the Blessed Virgin Mother of God, the most powerful protectress of the Church, our most tender mother, and the faithful patroness of the Church of Spain; that they invoke the intercession of the Prince of the Apostles, whom Jesus Christ made the firm foundation of His Church, against which the gates of hell shall not prevail; and of all the heavenly Citizens, but particularly those Saints who have rendered Spain so illustrious by the splendor of their virtues, their sanctity, and miracles. That the faithful of every rank, state and condition may attend those prayers and supplications with more ardent charity, and more abundant fruit, we have resolved to open the treasures of celestial grace with a liberal hand. Wherefore we grant, under the form of a jubilee, a plenary indulgence to all the faithful of Jesus Christ, who having been duly purified by a Sacramental Confession, and nourished with the most holy Eucharist, shall assist, three times at least, at the Solemn prayers to be appointed by the Ordinary, and who shall pray three times with the same intention, within the space of fifteen days, in the Church which the Ordinary shall have designated.

We confidently hope that the Angels of peace bearing in their hands the viols of gold and the censers of gold will offer to the Lord on the golden altar our fervent and humble prayers, as also those of the whole Church in favor of Spain; and we trust that the Lord, who is rich in mercy, regarding them with a benign countenance, will vouchsafe to hear our petitions, and the common petitions of all the faithful; and grant that being delivered, by His right hand, and the arm of His strength, from the calamities and errors which desolate that country, our holy mother the Church may be released from her sufferings, and again enjoy that liberty and peace with which Christ has endowed her.

That these our Apostolic letters may be the more easily known to all, and that no one may allege ignorance of their contents, we wish and ordain that they be published, according to custom, by one of our officers before the gates of the Basilick of the Prince of the Apostles, the Hall of the Apostolic Chancery, the general Court on Monte Citorio, as also in the Camp of Flora, and that a copy be left at each of the said places.

Given at Rome, at St. Peters under the ring of the fisherman, on the twenty-second of February 1842, the twelfth of our Pontificate.

LOUIS CARD. LAMBRUSCHINI.

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